

Name _____

Personal Poem Project

(1st **Major Grade**)

Use the poem, “Abandoned Farmhouse” to write a mimic poem about yourself.

Guidelines:

3 stanzas

3 subject assumptions (complete thoughts) per stanza

Each stanza needs to be about a different place and each stanza should bring us closer to your personal space. Or, each stanza could bring us further from your personal space.

Notice how the poem, “Abandoned Farmhouse” starts in the bedroom, goes to the kitchen and yard, and then goes to the farm. The setting starts in the more personal space of the family and then goes outward.

So, in other words, the setting, set off by stanzas, for your poem should go from general to specific or specific to general.

The lines of your poem should mimic the lines of Ted Kooser’s poem. For example:

Money was scarce, say the jars of plum preserves
and canned tomatoes sealed in the cellar hole.

She liked to read, say the cracked-spined books piled and
tattered on the floor.

As you are writing, pay close attention to the verb and subject.

Use “**say**” when your subject is plural and use “**says**” when your subject is singular.

The poem should reveal things about YOU, however, be sure to write about yourself in 3rd person just like Ted Kooser did in “Abandoned Farmhouse.”

There are no more guidelines. Any other questions you may have, answer them for yourself. This is YOUR poem.